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ASPULL  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



# Annual Report

OF THE

## Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1958.



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OF THE  
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## ASPULL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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### **PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS:**

*Medical Officer of Health :*

G. H. POTTER, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. D.P.H.

*Public Health Inspector :*

R. R.<sup>1</sup>MORTIMER,

Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute and S.I.E.J.B.

Meat Inspectors Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.

—Resigned, May, 1958.

**N.** G. WEIR,

Certificate, Royal Sanitary Inspectors' Association  
of Scotland — Appointed, June, 1958.

Public Health Department  
Council Offices,  
Aspull.

To the Chairman and Members of the Aspull Urban District  
Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the  
health of the district for the year 1958.


The Report is in accordance with the instructions of the  
Ministry of Health, and an endeavour has been made to embrace  
the most important details, and particularly those which indicate  
the state of health of the township.

I wish to thank you for the very kind interest taken in  
the matters affecting the health and sanitation of the district, and  
I would also like to extend my thanks to the Public Health Inspec-  
tor and other members of the staff for their valuable assistance  
during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

G. H. POTTER,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*



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# 1. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

**Area:** 1906 acres.

**Population (Census 1952):** 6,522.

**Estimated mid-1957 (Registrar General):** 6,670

**Total Number of Houses:** 2,154.

**Rateable Value:** £37,798.

**Sum represented by Penny Rate:** £133.

The inhabitants are chiefly of the manual working class.

**Industries:** One Cotton Mill and One Engineering Works.

## VITAL STATISTICS, 1957.

								Males	Females	TOTAL
Live Births—Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	51	48	99
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	3	3
Still Births—Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Mortality rates per 1,000 estimated population :										
total (all forms)—										
Crude Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.5
Adjusted Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14.9
Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Malignant neoplasm, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2.40
Live birth rates per 1,000 estimated population—										
Crude Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15.3
Adjusted Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15.0
Still birth rate per 1,000 <b>total</b> births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19.2
Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 <b>total</b> births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 <b>live</b> births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 <b>live</b> births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

In the next Table are shown the chief causes of Death and number of Deaths from each cause in 1958.

Cause of Death								No. of Deaths
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Malignant neoplasm, Stomach	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
All other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
All other accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1



**2. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICE IN THE AREA**

**LABORATORY ARRANGEMENTS**

Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Pathological Department of the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan, and the arrangements are satisfactory. Chemical analyses of water samples are carried out at the City Analyst's Department at the City Laboratories, Liverpool.

A report on every examination is made to the Public Health Department and during 1958, reports were made to the Authority on 2 examinations of milk and 8 of water.

**AMBULANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

During the year, Non-Infectious, Infectious, Accident and Maternity Cases were dealt with adequately by the Motor Ambulances belonging to the Lancashire County Council, stationed at Hindley and Standish.

**NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948**

No action was taken by the Authority during the year, under Section 47 of this Act.

**3. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA**

**WATER SUPPLY**

The district is supplied with water from Bolton Corporation, Wigan Rural District Council and Liverpool Corporation. The supply is upland surface and is found to be bacteriologically pure. During the year 8 bacteriological examinations and 5 chemical analyses of the piped supply were made and these proved satisfactory.

All houses in the district have a piped supply of water from the main.

During the year the County Borough of Bolton became the responsible Authority for the supply and maintenance of the water undertaking for the district.

No. of houses with supply direct from the public water main	1,141
No. of houses supplied from springs, etc. ... ..	Nil
No. of houses supplied by standpipe ... ..	Nil

**DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE**

The combined system of drainage is in operation throughout the district. All dwellings with the exception of 14 isolated cottages and farms have a water carriage system of sanitation.

During the year 63 inspections were made in connection with drainage and sewerage

Number of choked drains and sewers cleared by the Authority	21
Number of houses affected	52

The Sanitary Accommodation in the district at the end of the year was:—

Number of Fresh Water Closets	2,084
Number of Pail Closets	13
Number of Privy Middens	1

## PUBLIC CLEANSING

Street scavenging is under the control of the Engineer and Surveyor.

The collection and disposal of household refuse is under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector.

One driver and four labourers are employed full time on refuse collection and a tractor and driver on the tip.

A weekly collection is being steadily maintained at all premises in the district and also a weekly salvage collection.

The purchase of the Council of a tractor equipped with a bull-dozer blade, rear-loader and trailer has greatly facilitated work on the Marsh House tip and has enabled a system of controlled tipping to be used resulting in much improvement at the tip itself and also the surrounding areas.

A dustbin replacement scheme providing for the renewal of 150 dustbins per year is in operation in the district.

There are 13 pail closets, one privy midden and approximately 2,215 dustbins within the district.

Approximate number of dustbins emptied	86,750
Approximate number of pail closets emptied	650
Approximate weight of refuse removed (tons)	3,692

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following action was taken to secure the abatement of nuisances and the remedying of defects:—

No. of Informal Notices served	129
No. of Statutory Notices served	17
No. of Statutory Notices complied with	17
No. of Defects and nuisances found	271
No. abated	197

## TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

There is one licensed caravan site within the district,

## SMOKE ABATEMENT

There are 2 factory chimneys in the district and no action has been found necessary during the year.

Clean Air Act, 1956 : The whole of the Clean Air Act, 1956 came into operation on 1st June, 1956. Previously this Authority had adopted bye-laws governing the installation of types of appliances, in all new premises, suitable to burn permissible types of fuel.

## SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There are none in the district.

## VERMINOUS PREMISES

During the year 3 houses infested with bed bugs were disinfected with Coopers Multispray (containing D.D.T.) 4 other houses were disinfected of other insect pests either by spraying with liquid insecticide or by dusting with insecticidal powder. This type of treatment proved highly efficient.

## RODENT CONTROL

50 infestations of rats or mice were cleared during the year in addition to the two sewer treatments. The treatment of dwelling houses is free of charge but a charge is made for treatment of business premises.

1,164 inspections (including re-inspections) were made in 1958.

One Rodent Operative is employed for 3 days per week on this work.

## OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are no registered premises within the district.

## FACTORIES — DEFECTS FOUND

Premises	M/C line No.	No. on Register	Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occupiers Prse- cuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	1	—	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	2	6	4	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises. ... ..	3	1	1	—	—
<b>TOTAL ...</b>		7	5	—	—

## PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS 1928 AND 1936

12 Licences to store petroleum were issued during the year and 3 inspections were made under the Acts.

### 4. HOUSING

The township consists chiefly of working class houses which are old in type and constantly falling into disrepair.

Overcrowding exists only to a minor degree and those requiring houses are mainly married couples having to live with parents. 61 new housing applications were received during the year, of which 10 were applications for old peoples' bungalows.

During the year 12 new three-bedroom type houses were tenanted

At the end of the year 32 three-bedroom houses were under construction by the Council's Direct Labour Department.

## HOUSING STATISTICS

Number of new houses erected during the year—

Traditional permanent houses :—

(i) By Local Authority	... ..	28
(ii) By other Local Authorities	... ..	—
(iii) By other bodies or persons	... ..	19

### 1. INSPECTION of dwelling-houses during the year:—

(1) (a) Total No. of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	... ..	151
(b) No. of inspections made for the purpose	... ..	192
(2) Dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit—		
(a) No. found during year	... ..	7
(b) Total No. (or estimated No.) existing at end of year		51
(3) No. of dwelling-houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	... ..	94

### 2. HOUSES DEMOLISHED

In Clearance Areas :—

	Houses Demolished	Displaced during year Persons	Families
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation	... Nil	Nil	Nil
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.	... .. —	—	—
(3) Houses on land acquired under Section 43 (2), Housing Act, 1957	... .. —	—	—

Not in Clearance Areas:

(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17 (1), Housing Act, 1957	... .. 3	13	3
(5) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	—	—	—
(6) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts	—	—	—
(7) Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders	—	—	—



### 3. UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED

(1) Under Sections 16 (4), 17 (1) and 35 (1), Housing Act, 1957 ... ..	7	24	7
(2) Under Sections 17 (3) and 26, Housing Act, 1957 ... ..	—	—	—
(3) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957 ... ..	—	—	—

### 4. UNFIT HOUSE MADE FIT and Houses in which Defects were Remedied

	By Owner	By Local Authority
(1) After informal action by local authority ...	82	—
(2) After formal notice under (a) Public Health Acts ... ..	12	—
(b) Housing Act, 1957	2	—
(3) Under Section 24, Housing Act 1957 ...	—	—

### 5. UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE

(Housing Act 1957)

	No. of Houses (1)	No. of separate dwellings contained in Col. (1) (2)
Position at end of year:—		
(1) Retained for temporary accommodation		
(a) Under Section 48 ... ..	NIL	NIL
(b) Under Section 17 (2) ... ..	NIL	NIL
(c) Under Section 46 ... ..	NIL	NIL
(2) Licensed for temporary occupation under Sections 34 or 53 ... ..	NIL	NIL

### 6. PURCHASE OF HOUSE by Agreement

	No. of Houses (1)	No. of occupants of houses in Col. (1) (2)
Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased during the year. ... ..	NIL	NIL

### RENT ACT, 1957

During the year the following applications and undertakings were dealt with in respect of repairs to houses where the rent had been increased.

No. of applications for Certificates of Disrepair	19
No. of Certificates of Disrepair issued ... ..	39
No. of Undertakings received ... ..	12
No. of revocations of Certificates of Disrepair ...	3

## 7. HOUSING ACTS—Improvement grants, etc.

1 scheme was submitted by a private individual to the Local Authority, but was not approved. No schemes were submitted by the Local Authority to the Ministry.

## 5. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### MILK SUPPLY

Routine inspections of farms and dairies have been carried out and a good standard of cleanliness maintained. 2 samples of milk have been analysed, and proved to be satisfactory.

The Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) (No. 2) Order, 1958, came into operation on the 1st October, 1958. Therefore, on and after that date all dairymen retailing milk in any part of the area must sell the milk under special designation, (that is “Pasteurised”, “Sterilised”, and “Tuberculin Tested”.) irrespective of whether the premises from which the milk is retailed are inside or outside the area, and any milk which is retailed outside the specified area from those same premises must also be sold under special designation.

During the year licences under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, were issued to the following:—

Dealers in Sterilised Milk ... ..	26
Dealers in Pasteurised Milk ... ..	4
Dealers in Tuberculin Tested Milk ... ..	1
Dealers in Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised Milk ... ..	2
Number of registered distributors ... ..	4

There is one dairy in the district.

The following is a record of action taken in relation to sampling:—

	No. of Samples	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	No Result
Raw Milk—				
(i) Tuberculosis — biological tests	6	4 (Neg.)	—	2
(ii) Methylene Blue reduction tests	2	2	—	—
(iii) B. Typhosus examinations ...	3	3	—	—
(iv) Sediment tests ... ..	—	—	—	—
(b) “Heat treated” Milk—				
(1) Tuberculosis ... ..	—	—	—	—
“Pasteurised” <del>✗</del>				
(ii) Phosphatase tests ... ..	2	2	—	—
(iii) Methylene Blue reduction tests	2	2	—	—
“Sterilised”				
(iv) Turbidity tests ... ..	—	—	—	—

No Ministry investigations by the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food were found necessary during the year as a result of notifications of tuberculosis milk.

## MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

There is one small private slaughterhouse in the district at which 57 carcasses were inspected during the year. The bulk of the meat supply to the district is from wholesalers in the County Borough of Wigan.

The following table records the carcasses and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part:—

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Lambs and Sheep	Pigs	Horses
No. Killed ... ..	—	57	—	—	6	—
No. Inspected ... ..	—	57	—	—	6	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci :						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	1	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci ...						
	—	25%	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis only :						
Whole carcass condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	1	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ... ..						
	—	1	—	—	—	—
Cysticercosis :						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally Condemned ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—



The following other foods were condemned during the year:—

Tinned Meats ... .. 46 lbs.

One fore-quarter of carcase meat was condemned during the year. The small quantity of offal condemned was stained with dye and buried.

Other food condemned is collected by the Authority and buried on the refuse tip.

The following is a list of food premises within the district:—

### Type of Business

General grocers and provision dealers	31
Greengrocers and fruiterers (incl. those selling wet fish, game, etc).	6
Meat shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe, etc.	5
Bakers and/or confectioners	7
Fried fish shops	5
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream, etc	7
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars and other similar catering establishments	27
The number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the	

Food and Drugs Act, 1955 was as follows:—

Premises for the storage and retail sale of ice-cream	22
Preserved etc., food premises	4

12 visits were paid to the degistered premises during the year.

### FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955

All food premises and vehicles of hawkers entering the district have been inspected; also the vehicles of itinerant ice-cream vendors.

Considerable progress has been made without resort to formal action or prosecution, but much more remains to be achieved.

The obligations of the occupiers and food handlers as regards the condition of premises and methods of food handling are greatly stressed in the Regulations, but customers and consumers would greatly help to facilitate the work of the Public Health Inspector by observing hygienic practices when in food premises and also by patronising shops that provide a clean and hygienic service to their customers.

### ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT, ETC.) REGULATIONS

1947—52.

There are no ice-cream manufacturers in the area.

At retailers premises all ice-cream sold in pre-packed and stored in cabinet refrigerators at or below 28 deg. F.

## FOOD POISONING

No cases of food poisoning occurred in the district in 1958.

## 6. PREVALENCE OF, and CONTROL OVER INFECTIONS DISEASES

The number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year was 50 of which 33 were cases of Measles which occurred during the period from March to August.

One isolated case of Paralytic Poliomyelitis occurred. The patient made a full recovery.

No cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year, or in the previous year.

Supplies of Diphtheria Antitoxin are kept at the Divisional Health Office and the local hospitals, and are always available to the medical practitioners.

Free immunisation is provided for any pre-school or school child, and is performed by the Medical Officer at the Clinic.

No immunisation against the enteric group was undertaken during 1958.

## IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

The following statistics show the number of children resident in Aspull who were immunised and vaccinated during the year.

	Pre-School Children	School Children
Triple Antigen (Diphtheria-Whooping Cough and Tetanus) ... ..	89	17
Diphtheria Re-inforcing Injections ... ..	5	194
Poliomyelitis : Primary ... ..	190	170
Re-inforcing ... ..	3	25
Smallpox Vaccinations ... ..	56	2

\* The general standard of cleanliness and habits in the district remain high and the cases of head lice dealt with at the clinic were few and were successfully treated with D.D.T. Emulsion.

## DISINFECTION

Disinfection of houses is carried out with formaldehyde, and bedding and clothing are steam disinfected by arrangement with Hindley U.D. Council.

During the year disinfection was carried out at 3 houses.

## CANCER

16 deaths (9 males and 7 females) were certified as due to cancer during the year.

Facilities for Radium treatment are available to Aspull residents at the Radium Institute, Manchester, and at Wigan Infirmary, which for this purpose is a sub-clinic of the Manchester Centre.

# CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1957

DISEASES	Total Cases all ages											25 and over	Age Un- known
		0—	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—				
Scarlet Fever ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Whooping Cough ...	6	1	1	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	
Acute Poliomyelitis													
Paralytic ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Non-Paralytic ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Measles (Excluding Rubella) ... ..	33	2	4	5	4	9	8	1	—	—	—	—	
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Dysentery ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Meningococcal Infection ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	Total Cases all ages	0—	5—	15—	45—	65 and over	age Un- known						
Acute Pneumonia (Prim. and Infl'zal ...	3	1	—	1	1	—	—						
Smallpox ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—						
Acute encephalitis Infective ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—						
Post-Infections ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—						
Enteric or Typhoid Fever ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—						
Paratyphoid Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—						
Erysipelas ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—						
Food poisoning ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—						
Tuberculosis respiratory	6	1	1	2	1	1	—						
Meninges & L.N.S. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—						
Other ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—						

TUBERCULOSIS

The dispensary service is under the control of the Regional Hospital Board and Aspull cases attend at the Chest Clinic in Millgate, Wigan.

3 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 1 case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year, and 1 case of pulmonary tuberculosis was transferred into the district.

No deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis occurred during 1958.

The table below shows notifications by age-group for 1958.

Tuberculosis — New Cases				
Age (Years)	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
3½	—	—	—	1
17½	1	—	1	—
62	1	—	—	—
65	—	1	—	—
<hr/>				
	2	1	1	—
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
Totals	3		1	
<hr/>				







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